SIR CONAN DOYLE'S REMARKABLE FORECAST OF THE SUBMARINE RAIDS ON ENGLAND'S FOOD SHIPS

earrying it to be destroyed. The you all the news at a glance. It lawyers could argue about it afterward. My business was to starve the enemy any way I could. Within an hour the three ships were under the waves and the lota was steaming down the Picardý coast looking for down the picardý coast l ered with English torpedo boats buzzing and whirling like a cloud of midges. How they thought they could I cannot imagine, unless by eccident I were to come up underneath one of them. More dangerous were the aeroplanes which circled here and there.

The water being calm I had sevthat I was out of their sight thought it was the end! We would after I had blown up the three see about that. ships at Boulogne I saw two aerovessels which were coming up. There like this: e very large white steamer lying off Havre, but she steamed west before I could reach her. I dare say "Several of the enemy's submarines Stephan or one of the others would get her before long. But those in-fernal aeroplanes spoiled our sport for

to make the Thames in the darkness sentations have been made by the American flag. It was all the stroyed near the Needles. same to me what flag she flew so long . "Wireless messages have stopped all lota almost alongside.

shots of mine will bring the torpedo depredations. boats, and I dare say at this very mo-ment your wireless is making trouble of our proceedings. Another small for me. Get your people into the paragraph was, however, more elo-

I had to show him I was not bluffing, so I drew off and began putting stood at 35 shillings a week before When I had knocked six holes in his yesterday on the Baltic at 52. Malze ship he was very busy on his boats. has gone from 21 to 37, barley from If fired twenty shots altogether, and no torpedo was needed, for she was lying over with a terrible list to port, and presently came right on to her "Good, my lads!" said I when I could not wait to inquire. From all prices up a little higher. quarters the poor old panting useless. All traffic had stopped for London—war vessels were hurrying. I filled not so bad for the little Iota—and we row afterward-as there was-but that up by wireless, and by 7 o'clock

anxious, as you can imagine, to know faces once more. what was going on in the world and Stephan had done extraordinarily none, except a rag of an evening which should have come to the paper, which was full of nothing but. Thames had tried to make Southampcame alongside a small yachting party tons, a grain ship from America; a to death at our sudden appearance Black Sea, and two others were great Courier of that very morning.

DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY'S PLEET.

TRAWLERS DESTROY MINE FIELD. LOSS OF TWO BATTLESHIPS.

IS IT THE END? Of course, what I had foreseen had

On the round the corner page at the planes flying down Channel, and I back of the glorious resonant leaders knew that they would head off any there was a little column which read

that day. Not another steamer did day and the greater part of Tuesday I see save the never ending torpedo appear to have been the month of the boats. I consoled myself with the reflection, however, that no food was the Solent, Ca Monday between the passing me on its way to London. Nore and Margate there were sunk That was what I was there for after five large steamers, the Adela Molda-If I could do it without spending via, Cuso, Cormorant and Maid of my torpedoes all the better. Up to Athens, particulars of which will be date I had fired ten of them and sunk found below. Near Ventnor on the nine steamers, so I had not wasted my same day was sunk the Verulam from weapons. That night I came back to Bombay. On Tuesday the Virginia, the Kent coast and lay upon the bot-tom in shallow water near Dungeness. Cresar, King of the East and Path-finder were destroyed between the We were all trimmed and ready at Foreiand and Boulogne. The latter the first break of day, for I expected three were actually lying in French to catch some ships which had tried waters and the most energetic repreand had miscalculated their time. Government of the Republic. On the Sure enough, there was a great same day the Queen of Sheba, Oron-steamer coming up Channel and flying tes, Diana and Atalanta were de-

as she was engaged in conveying con- ingoing cargo ships from coming up traband of war to the British Isles. Channel, but unfortunately there is There were no torpedo boats about at evidence that at least two of the the moment, so I ran out on the surface and fired a shot across her bows. Four cattle ships from Dublin to She seemed inclined to go on, so I Liverpool were sunk yesterday eve-put a second one just above her water ning, while three Bristol bound line on her port bow. She stopped then steamers, the Hilds. Mercury and and a very angry man began to ges- Maria Toser were blown up in the ticulate from the bridge. I ran the neighborhood of Lundy Island. Comalmost alongside.
Are you the captain?" I asked.

merce has, so far as possible, been diverted into safer channels, but in "What the--" I won't attempt to the meantime, however vexatious these incidents may be and however griev-You have foodstuffs on board?" I ous the loss both to the owners and to Lloyd's, we may console ourselves "It's an American ship, you blind by the reflection that since a sub-beetle!" he cried. "Can't you see the marine cannot keep the sea for more flag? It's the Vermondia of Boston." than ten days without refitting and "Sorry, captain," I answered. "I since the base has been captured there have really no time for words. Those must come a speedy term to these

quent "The price of wheat," it said, "which hells into him just on the water line. the declaration of war, was quoted

There she lay for two or three | read it to the crew. "I can assure you minutes before she foundered. There that those few lines will prove to were eight boats crammed with people mean more than the whole page about lying round her when she went down, the fall of Blankenberg. Now let us I believe everybody was saved, but I get down Channel and send those

my tanks, ran our bows under and did not see a steamer that was worth came up fifteen miles to the south. Of a torpedo between Dungeness and the course I knew there would be a big Isle of Wight. There I called Stephan did not help the starving crowds round were actually lying side by side in a he London bakers, who only saved smooth rolling sea-Hengistbury Head their skins, poor devils, by explaining bearing north-northwest and about to the mob that they had nothing to five miles distant. The two crews eke.

By this time I was becoming rather shouted their joy at seeing friendly

what England was thinking about it well. I had of course read in the all. I ran alongside a fishing boat, London paper of his four ships on therefore, and ordered them to give up! Tuesday, but he had sunk no fewer their papers. Unfortunately, they had than seven since, for many of those betting news. In a second attempt I ton. Of the seven one was of 20,000 from Eastbourne, who were frightened second was a grain ship from the icky enough to get the London lated Stephan with all my heart upon his splendid achievement.

It was interesting reading-so in- Then, as we had been seen by a de- we both agreed that few ships would work in the Irish Sea. Having made imagine that his wireless was deranged, were comprehensive. All that day is very limited. About 8 in the teresting that I had to announce it all stroyer, which was approaching at a now come up the Channel. That sent the patriotism of the patri British style of headline, which gives again off the Needles, where we spent safer routes could only mean that the small village of Etretat, in British to me to find that my telegraphic in-

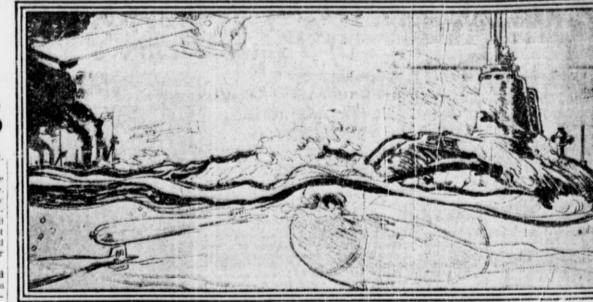
were very averse to returning to our base so long as our oil held out. I told han of my experience with the Bostor steamer, and we mutually agreed to sink the ships by gunfire in ling from a French port to tell them. future so far as possible. I remember to send the four second rate boats to old Horli saying: "What use is a gun cruise off the north of Ireland and up Stephan, but received no reply. As

aboard a submarine?" We were about to show.

Then when I had to was within a few miles of our rendered to show.

I was within a few miles of our rendered to show.

That night (Friday, April 16) I called



"Ah, Johnny, Johnny Bull, you are going to have your lesson."



out of the depths. From them we were liners from South Africa. I congratu- It was the queenly Olympic of the White Star Line * * * and I knew that she had her death blow. She dived bow foremost, and there was a terrific explosion, which sent one of her funnels into the air.

under the keels of two British cruisers at the bottom of the English Channel. which were making eagerly for Etre-tat, having heard by wireless that we after I had parted from him he had

dived. The perfect submarine of the ran thus future will surely have some alternative engines for such an emergency. However, by the skill of Engineer with five shell holes between wind and Morrow we got things going once Water! She reports having been atmore. All the time we lay there I saw a tacked by a hostile submarine ten hydropiane floating between us and miles southeast of the Lizard. Instead the British coast. I can understand of using her torpedoes the submarine how a mouse feels when it is in a for some reason approached upon the

where there was nothing to injure it.

It was on Wednesday night that the nel, the Macedonia had mounted an armangent as an applicant content of the state of the lota crossed to Etretat. It was Friday She opened fire with two quick firers afternoon before we had reached our and blew away the coming tower of new cruising ground. Only one large the submarine. It is probable that the steamer did I see upon our way. The steamer did I see upon our way. The shells went right through her, as she shells went right through her, as she sank at once with her hatches open. Channel. This big boat had a clever captain on board. His tactics were by her pumps." excellent and took him in safety to the Such was the end of the Kappa and Thames. He came zigzagging up my gallant friend Commander Ste-Channel at 25 knots, shooting off from phan. His best epitaph was in a corhis course at all sorts of unexpected ner of the same paper and was headed angles. With our slow pace we could "Mark Lane." It ran: not catch him, nor could we calculate "Wheat (average) 66, maize 48, barhis line so as to cut him off. Of course ley 50."
he had never seen us, but he judged. Well, if Stephan was gone there was

There I got off my telegram and then a Brixham trawler. The Kappa, with laid my course for Falmouth, passing her gallant commander and crew, were

Half way down Channel we had solk no fewer than five vestrouble with a short circuit in our since all of them were by gun fire and electric engines and were compelled all were on the south coast of Dorset to run on the surface for several hours while we replaced one of the cainshafts and renewed some washers. It was a ticklish time, for had a torpedo boat come upon us we could not have

"The P. & O. mail steamer Macegrass and sees a hawk high surface and fired five shots from a up in the heavens. However, all went semi-automatic 12 pounder gun. She well; the mouse became a water rat, was evidently under the impression wagged its tail in derision at the that the Macedonia was unarmed. As poor blind old hawk and it dived down a matter of fact, being warned of the into a nice, safe, green, quiet world presence of submarines in the Chan-

and judged rightly, that wherever we the more need for me to show energy.

use my gun. Both these craft, the Yelland and the Playboy—the latter an had come round by the Pentland American ship—were perfectly harm—Firth and reached their cruisins less, so I came up within a hundred ground on the fourth day. Already yards of them and speedily sank them, they had destroyed twenty vessels after allowing their people to get into without any mishap. I ordered the the boats. Some other steamers lay further out, but I was so eager to make among the other three, so that they my new arangements that I did not were in good condition to continue go out of my course to molest them. their cruise. Then the Beta and I Just before sunset, however, so mag- headed for home, reaching our base nificent a prey came within my radius upon Sunday, April 25. of action that I could not possibly re- Wrath I picked up a paper from a No saflor could fail to recognize that four cream funnels tipped with black,

er huge black eldes, her red bilges and her high white top hamper, roar-ing up Channel at twenty-three knots and carrying her 45,000 tons as lightly as if she were a 5 ton motor boat. why should they suspect my modest. It was the queenly Olympic of the confectioner's villa more than any White Star Line once the largest and other of the 10,000 houses that face still the comellest of liners. What a the sea? I was giad when I picked picture she made, with the blue Cor- up its homely nish sea creaming round her giant periscope. That night I landed and forefoot and the pink western sky with found my stores intact. Before mornone evening star forming the back- ing the Beta reported itself, for we ground to her noble lines! She was about five miles off when

we dived to cut her off. My calcula-tion was exact. As we came abreast at my humble headquarters. They fair. We swirled round with the con-cussion of the water. I saw her in was that never to be forgotten salu-I knew that she had her death blow. to present myself at Hauptville, but She settled down slowly, and there for once I took it upon myself to was plenty of time to save her peo-disobey his commands. It took me ple. The sea was dotted with her two days—or rather two nights, for fol sight. She dived bow foremost, minute of the time. On the third and there was a terrific explosion, morning at 1 o'clock the Beta and my cheered-somehow none of us felt like off the mouth of the Thames. cheering. We were all keen sailors. I had no time to read our papers and it went to our hearts to see such while I was refitting, but I gathered a ship go down like a broken eggshell. the news after we got under way.
I gave a gruff order and all were at The British occupied all our ports, but their posts again while we headed otherwise we had not suffered at all, northwest.

Once round the Land's End I called munications with Europe. Prices had next day at Hartland Point, the south a British invasion, but this I knew ment the Channel was clear, but the to be absolute nonsense, for the Brit-English could not know it, and i ish must have learned by this time reckoned that the loss of the Olympic that it would be sheer murder to send would stop all ships for a day or two the face of submarines. When they

received reports from Miriam and Var. well not exist so far as Europe is the respective commanders. Each concerned. My own country therebetween them they had sunk twenty-two steamers. One man had been Great

ing for Milford Haven. Late at night. being abreast of Holyhead, I called upon my four northern boats, but without reply. Their Marconi range

learned from Stephan's fate-that it was | structions had reached them and that better to torpedo the large craft, but they were on their station. Before I was aware that the auxiliary cruis- evening we all assembled in the lee of British Government were Sanda Island, in the Mull of Kintyre. all over 10,000 tons, so that for all I felt an admiral indeed when I saw ships under that size it was safe to my five whalebacks all in a row.

Panza's report was excellent. They small schoener.

"Wheat, 84; maize, 60; barley, 62." glorious monarch of the sea, with her What were battles and bombardments ompared to that!

The whole coast of Norland was losely blockaded by cordon within cordon and every port, even the smallest, held by the British. But had the windows lit as a guide.

It is not for me to recount the meswe loosed our torpedo and struck her shall ever remain as the patents of my periscope list over on her side, and tation from my King. He desired me boats. When I got about three miles we sank ourselves during the daylight off I role to the surface, and the whole hours—to get all our stores on board, crew clustered up to see the wonder-but my presence was needful every which sent one of the funnels into own little flagship were at sea once the air. I suppose we should have more, bound for our original station

since we have excellent railway com my two consorts, and we met altered little and our industries con-

have a tunnel they can use their fine one on each side of me, I expeditionary force upon the Contihad expended twelve torpedoes, and fore was in good case and had nothing

Great Britain, however, was already killed by the machinery on board of feeling my grip upon her throat. As the Delta, and two had been burned in normal times four-fifths of her food by the Agnition of some oil on the is imported prices were rising by leaps I took these injured men and bounds. The supplies in the counon board and I gave each of the boats try were beginning to show signs of one of my crew. I also divided my depletion, while little was coming in spare oil, my provisions and my tor- to replace them. The insurance at pedoes among them, though we had Lloyd's had risen to a figure which the greatest possible difficulty in made the price of food prohibitive to crank vessels in transfer- the mass of the people by the time ring them from one to the other, it had reached the market. The loaf However, at 10 o'clock it was which under ordinary circumstances done, and the two vessels were in con- stood at fivepence was already at one dition to keep the sea for another and twopence. Beef was three shilten days. For my part, with only two lings and fourpence a pound and mutten days. For my part, with only two ton two shillings and ninepence. torpedoes left, I headed north up the liverything else was in proportion. One of my torpedoes I expended The Government had acted with that evening upon a cattle ship mak- energy and offered a big bounty for corn to be planted at once. only be reaped five months hence however, and long before then, as the papers pointed out, half the island Strong appeals had been made to

Continued on Fourth Page.



We returned to port upon the surface, steamingthrough the whole British fleet as we passed up the North Sea. The crews clustered thick along the sides of the vessels to watch us.



Heavens, what a smash! The whole stern seemed to go aloft. I drew off and watched her sink. She went down in seven minutes, leaving her masts and funnels over the water and were those were the tactice by which My plans were quickly taken, but they cluster of her people holding on to them.